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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. EXT-072C1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Boles *et al.*
SERIAL NO.: 10/024,944 GROUP NO.: 1634
FILING DATE: December 19, 2001 EXAMINER: Einsmann, Juliet C.
TITLE: Detection of Non-Viral Organisms with SRP RNA

BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on March 18, 2002. A Notice of Appeal is submitted on even date herewith to Box After Final, along with a Petition for Extension of Time and appropriate fee, extending the time for responding for a period of three months, up to and including September 18, 2002. Applicants believe that the enclosed fee should be sufficient; however, in the event that further fees are due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any such additional fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections made in the Office Action.

AMENDMENTS

Prior to further examination of this application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

Please amend the specification to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended paragraph showing the amendments is attached.